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# Spiritual Greatness

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Int. *Belong, accepted, respected, admired, loved, wanted, worth something, be somebody, do something!* 8:47. 5:16.

### SPIRITUAL GREATNESS

*only human for person to want to excel 2nd + be rewarded for it can get out of hand!*

INT: Wish to introduce lesson with Friday, October's devotional reading in POWER FOR TODAY.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

### **Honesty in Thanksgiving**

READ COLOSSIANS 1:9-20

Bible Thought: "Giving thanks unto the Father . . ." (Colossians 1:12).

*col. 3:12. Eph. 5:20.*

THESE marvelous words of praise and thanksgiving expressed by Paul indicate his recognition of God for his greatness in giving mankind a Savior. Paul had perhaps earlier thought that he was self-sufficient and had a great deal of personal strength, but after he came to know the gift of God in Christ, his whole life was changed.

Since the beginning of human life on the earth, man has been trying to steal the glory and praise that belongs to God. Even after we become Christians, it is easy to take the credit for the things that God accomplishes in our life. It is probably true that there is a good deal too much of the "I" in the conversation of most of us!

Let us learn from the example of Paul that all praise and honor belong to the Father and to his Christ and to the Holy Spirit. By ourselves, we can do nothing that is really worthwhile. With God at work in us, we can do all things that he desires. It is dishonest to take the credit for what someone else has done. Let us give thanks, honor, and praise to God continually.

~~Hymn: "Praise Him, Praise Him."~~

*Dear Father, help us to praise you as we ought, not only in our prayers, but also in our daily lives. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

READING suggests several things:

1. Since the beginning man has been trying to steal the glory and praise which belongs to God. *Was Satan's key suggestion: Gen. 3:1-6\* True!*
2. Mankind today (Christians included) tend to take credit which belongs to God.
3. Paul learned to give God ALL the praise and ALL the glory, which were rightfully His.
4. WE will BE better, DO better, and ACCOMPLISH more, when we learn to give God the full measure of praise, honor and glory due Him.

## II. MEN OF OLD WERE CONSTANTLY REMINDED OF GOD'S POWER AND GREATNESS. *& man's smallness*

- A. Moses reminded Israel of God's Greatness and Great Blessings. DEUT. 10:12-22.\*
- B. David thanks God for letting Solomon build the great Temple. II Sam. 7:18-26. (BC 1042)
- C. Nehemiah - in 445 B. C. - encouraged Israel to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. Nehemiah 4:13-18.
- D. KING SAUL started well, but fell to human egotism.  
 I Sam. 9:2. Son of Kish, choice, goodly, higher than any of the people.  
 9:21. Smallest tribe, Benjamin. Least of the families, Kish. 12:22-25\*  
 SINNED at Gilgal; against the Philistines; offered illegal sacrifice. 13:8-14.  
 SINNED from Havilah to Shur. Defeated Amalekites. Spared Agag and the  
 cream of the sheep and oxen. I Sam. 15:11-24. \*\* Key: vs. 17!
- E. MOSES: Sinned in the desert of Zin. Struck the rock. Numbers 20:1-12.

## III. PURPOSE OF SUCH RECORDS?

- A. Romans 15:4. Our learning. We might have hope.
- B. I Cor. 10:6. Our examples. Not lust. vs. 11. Examples & admonitions. 12-14.  
 ANY UNBELIEF OR SIN IS IDOLATRY!

## V. NUMEROUS NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES URGE MAN TO STAY IN HIS PLACE AND GIVE GOD HIS!

- 1. Matthew 5:3. Poor in spirit. "Those who know they are spiritually poor." TEV.
  - 2. Matthew 18:1-6. *who is greatest?* Humble himself, as a little child. Greatest? Least! paradox.
  - 3. Matthew 20:20-28. Salome started a division in the Apostolic ranks. Chief? servant!
  - 4. I Peter 5:6-7. Christian's honor and glory awaits him in afterawhile. *not weary* Gal. 6:9.  
*know labor* I Cor. 15:58.
- III. JESUS humbled Himself to the lowest servant of all. Washed His disciple's feet.  
 John 13:1-17.

INV: First steps in honoring God and His greatness and power: Accept Him, love Him, obey Him.  
 I John 5:3. John 6:38. Mk. 16:15-16

*then,*

Following steps not so hard. Rom. 12:1-2. Best proof of God's power in men is His  
 power in YOUR LIFE.